

PLAIN TALKS

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

JULY, 1941

STATIC

Rice, old shoes, orange blossoms and all that sort of stuff to these who strode the middle aisle since last issue . . .

Ruth Dudley (1), Port Arthur sales . . . Pearl Tabor (2), Beaumont customer accounts . . . Jeanne Sitterle (3), Beaumont accounting . . . Bertha Froberg (4), Alvin cashier . . .

Minnie Quin (5), Baton Rouge cashier . . . Aduron Cross (6), Louisiana Station . . . Pat Murphy (7) Louisiana Station . . . S. D. Sonnier (8), Beaumont line . . . Joe Barrios (9), Baton Rouge electric survey crew . . .

Bill Humphries of Baton Rouge gas department also promised to love, honor, et cetera, but we couldn't get his picture . . .



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LIBERTY STAGES BARBECUE



One of the high spots in our last news-gathering tour was the recent barbecue party thrown by the Liberty district.

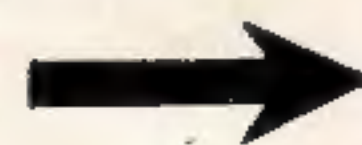
About 65 were present including Liberty employees, their families and guests from Beaumont and Navasota divisions.

POWER PALAVER



Upon crashing the recent quarterly sales meeting of the power sales department, held in Beaumont, we found these present:—(Left to right) Bill Thomson of Beaumont; Jack Cart of Lake Charles; Pete Guelfi and Andre Dubus of Baton Rouge; Owen Floyd and E. L. Robinson of Beaumont; Lionel Dugas of Port Arthur; Frank Contois, Marcus Andrews and Walter House of Lake Charles, Rufus Manley of Beaumont.

NEW EMPLOYEES



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I only got Pages 1, 2, 11 & 12. Still seemed worthwhile to post what I had.



Every so often we hear of some occurrence that we think fit to preserve for posterity.

On the occasion of the recent week-end party held by Port Arthur sales at Moss Lake in Louisiana, DR Bob Thompson was initiated into the fold by the most nefarious and heinous method.

To wit:—Sid Hebert remarked to Bob that he knew a fellow who lived close by and although this party had been suspected of being a little cracked, still he was a friend and to all outward appearances perfectly rational, and he, Sid, would like to visit this friend. Bob's the type who likes to oblige so off they went down the road about three miles until they reached a lonesome, unlighted house beside the road.

What Bob didn't know was that the house was deserted. Neither did he know that Fred Davis and Bobbie LeBlanc lay in wait in said house prepared for a predetermined ambush of Sid, a partner in the crime, and himself. "My friend must have turned in early", says Sid. "Let's knock on the door."

At the first knock the ambushers went into action. LeBlanc let out a blood-curdling yell, Davis fired into the air with both barrels of a shotgun, Hebert dropped and screamed that he was shot and Thompson plowed up the ground heading for camp.

Halfway to camp Bob met Blackie DeCuir, another plotter, and babbled incoherently of Sid's friend going berserk and shooting him down like a dog. Dutifully Blackie volunteered to go to the rescue and back to the scene of the tragedy they went. Sid lay moaning on the grass and as Bob and Blackie stepped into the yard Fred let go another blast with the cannon and now Blackie dropped; mortally wounded. Off Bob went again, under full steam and headed for camp.

Arriving at camp breathless and scared green Bob found Joe Prejean, "Dink" Dinkins, "Frog" Handley and George Wings complacently playing poker and deaf to his pleas for help.

Bob was showing indications of exploding from indignation at his callous companions when the "dead" came strolling in arm and arm with the two ambushers.

In a recent interview on the incident Mr. Thompson grinned at us and said, quote, "Aw nuts!!"

STATIC

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You really haven't seen any hosses until you get a look at Lola Hughes' collection of miniature equines. Lola, who works in Beaumont customer accounts, has a hobby of collecting horses of all sorts. She's got 'em in wood, glass, pottery, metal, plastic and straw.

Lola's always got her eyes open for new and different nags to add to her collection but she didn't warm up to our suggestion that she adopt that stray "bag of bones" which has been trampling down the flowerbeds on our suburban estate.

* * * *



"Thar's gold in them thar citrus fruits", says home economist Thelma Carson.

Thelma, who makes her residence in one of the Beaumont hotels, awoke one bright morning, feeling salubrious, opulent and sagacious, and ordered a glass of orange juice sent to her room.

The liquid sunshine arrived as requested but in the company of a check which completely wrecked a perfectly good four bit piece.

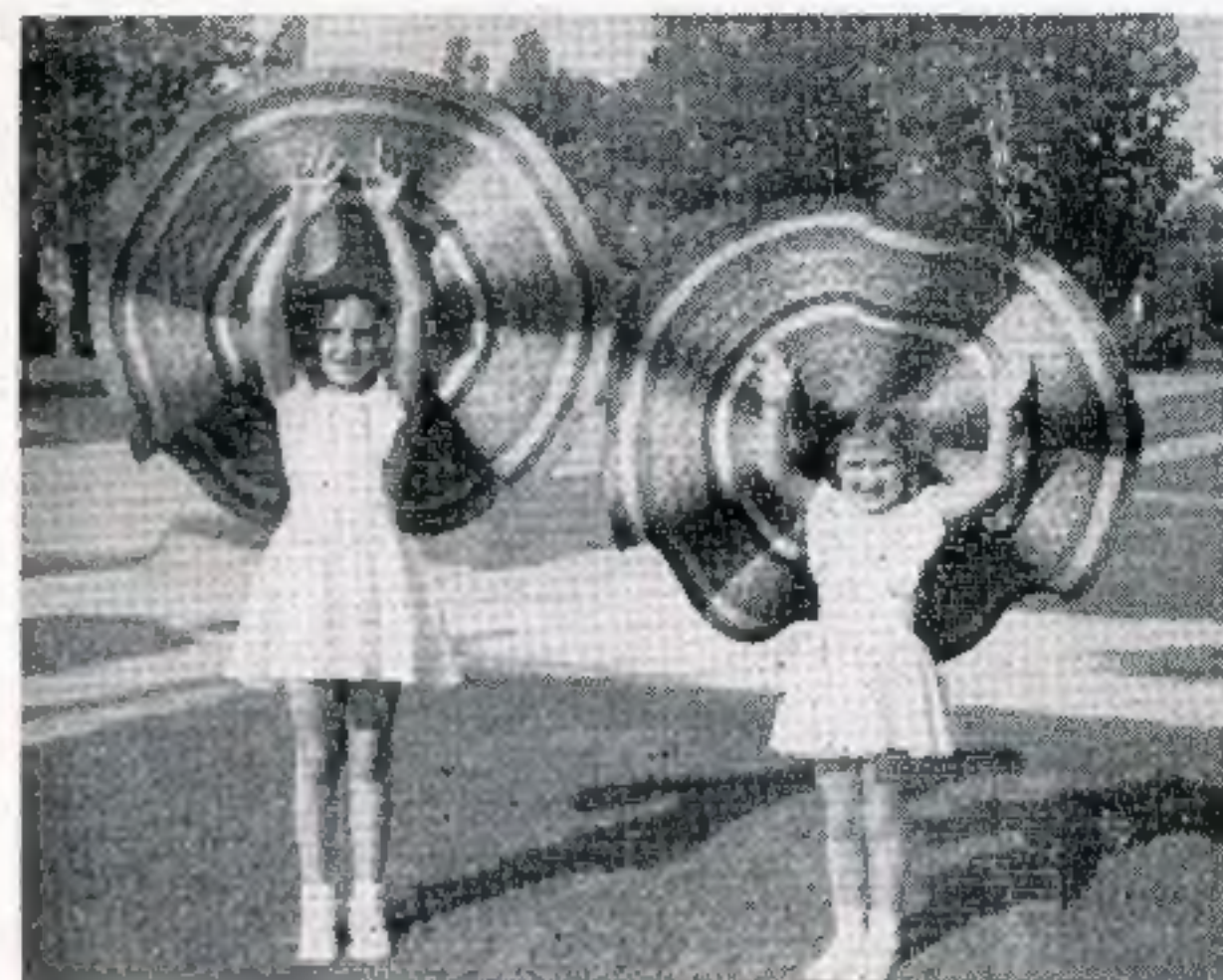
How well we remember our first venture into the realm of the plutocracy, only we took a crack at champagne and the tariff looked like a week's paycheck.

We give you, the fastest fat man in Gulf States, Roy Henckel of Neches Station.



The Fat Man's race was one of the highlights of the Beaumont picnic and Roy won the event by a tummy.

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This may not be your idea of what well-dressed young ladies are going to wear in the line of hats this summer but you've got to admit that these bonnets which adorn the LeVois girls are the real stuff for this East Texas sun. Martha (left) and Charlotte (right) are the daughters of H. C. LeVois of Beaumont power sales. "Pop" dug up these super-drooper "bean blankets" on a vacation in Mexico.

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Hi yo Silver . . . The gun-totin' rip-snortin' son of the west, astride his faithful pony (?) is none other than Paul Masterson of Beaumont credits and collections.

Lobby decorations of a local theatre inspired this bit of horseplay.

Could this bale of hay represent those delinquent accounts which Mr. Masterson is always "riding"?

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THIS 'N THAT



Mildred Allison (1), Beaumont accounting, recently completed a Red Cross course in water safety. Ruby Rhea Ridley (2), Beaumont production, was recently selected by the Texas Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs as a delegate to the national convention in Los Angeles. Prior commitments prevented Rhea's attending the convention but her selection was a singular honor . . .

Dorothy Van Norstrand (3) and Mae Claire Crisp (4) both of Beaumont billing, recently completed a Red Cross First Aid course as one of the requirements of members of the American Women's Voluntary Service, an organization training for work in national defense . . .

In the recent YMCA tennis tournament we found Bill Godsey (5) Beaumont engineering, and Louis Maher (6), Beaumont stores accounting. Bill Godsey and Jack Himel (12), Beaumont accounting, were honored as members who were "high men" in the recent YMCA membership drive . . .

W. H. Caswell (7), Beaumont accounting was winner in a recent rifle shooting contest put on by the Spindletop Gun Club . . . George Morgan (10), Beaumont engineering, is another one of our best sharpshooters and gives a good account of himself in the Gun Club contests . . .

Port Arthur DR Sam Umphrey is 'Sir' to members of the Port Arthur Junior Chamber of Commerce State Defense-Guard Unit. Sam, formerly a national Guardsman, is captain of the Nation's first Jaycee defense group, some of which Sam is shown reviewing in picture 8. . .

Lloyd Brannan (9), Silsbee DR, has been designated captain of the Silsbee unit of the Texas State Defense-Guard . . .

R. W. Haynes (11), Beaumont production, didn't win any of the prizes in the recent Port Arthur Jaycee Fishing Rodeo but we think he should have some honorable mention for bagging seven sharks in one day's catch. If Haynes is as allergic to sharks as we are then he must still have a crop of goose-bumps . . .

H. C. Davidson (13), Beaumont accounting, is the manager of one of the local church softball teams. I. F. Daniel (14), Silsbee superintendent, was recently appointed a trustee in the newly organized volunteer fire department of that city . . .

Phil Newman (15), Port Arthur sales superintendent, was recently elected to an office in the local Lion's Club . . . Dean Saxby (16), Alvin sales, is now a director in the local Chamber of Commerce . . .

Ed Chatman, Kyle Hutchinson and Thomas Murray (left to right), all of Beaumont distribution.

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Add human interest stories . . . From Superintendent Dave Gideon of Sabine Station comes an account of a bird making a nest and laying an egg in the driveway at Sabine Station . . . The heavy traffic of company trucks and cars made the driveway anything but an ideal spot for a bird sanctuary, so one of the fellows staked off the nest and put up a red flag . . . Sister bird calmly went about the business of raising her family in perfect safety if not peace and quiet . . .



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What is so rare as a nice cool shower after a hard day's work . . . These surely must have been the thoughts of R. E. Buckley of Beaumont storeroom when recently he retired to the distribution building locker room to wash away the cares and tribulations of a trying day . . .

But Mr. Buckley was by no means the only one who harbored the same thoughts . . . Right in the coolest corner of said shower and all reared up to greet him, was a snake about six inches thick and about ten feet long, said Mr. Buckley . . . All evacuation records fell as Mr. Buckley left the scene of the unpleasant encounter . . . Confidentially, the party who reported the incident to us stated that brother snake wasn't really of such gargantuan proportions . . .



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Colored Port Arthur employees and their families enjoyed an outing at the beach on July 19. Twenty-five were present and all reports indicate that a huge time was had by all.

S T A T I C

(Continued from page 11)



Add new poppas . . . "Private" James Gage (left) colored Neches employee, is mighty proud of seven and one half pound son, James Jr., born July 11.



Here are three good reasons why the folks who attended the Beaumont Gulf States picnic got plus-service at the eats-table.